

Appln No. 10/621,988
Amdt date March 16, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 16, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-16 remain pending in this application, with claims 17-45 withdrawn from consideration. Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance and therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance.

In the Office action dated November 16, 2005, the Examiner rejected all of pending claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Maguire, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,953,460) in view of Panescu (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0078509). In so rejecting, the Examiner asserts that Maguire discloses an ultrasound transducer "having a front surface and an opposing back surface, wherein the transducer is positioned to transmit ultrasound energy toward the tissue facing the front surface but not toward tissue facing the back surface," as recited in independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Maguire fails to disclose an ultrasound transducer "having a front surface and an opposing back surface, wherein the transducer is positioned to transmit ultrasound energy toward the tissue facing the front surface but not toward tissue facing the back surface," as recited in independent claim 1 of the present application. Rather, Maguire discloses a *circumferential* ablation element which can include an ultrasound transducer. However, the circumferential ablation element of Maguire is not "positioned to transmit ultrasound energy toward the tissue facing the front surface but not toward tissue facing the back surface."

In addition, the Examiner asserts that Panescu "discloses a similar device and teach that it is old and well known in the art to provide a location sensor to determine the precise location of a device relative to the target tissue." Office action, page 3. However, Panescu fails to teach or suggest a location sensor that senses the orientation of the ultrasound transducer, as claimed in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-16, are allowable over Maguire and Panescu.

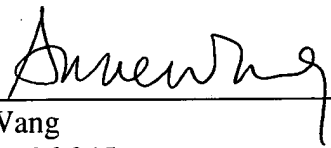
In light of the above remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-16 are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of

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allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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By



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